

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06890 201350Z
ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6890

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
SUBJ: POLITICAL ACTIVITY --PROJECTED MEETINGS, MORE RESURGENCE
PARTY (RPPI) RESIGNATIONS, ARYAMEHR UNIVERSITY TO STAY IN TEHRAN

REF: A. TEHRAN 6721, B. TEHRAN 6818

SUMMARY: CELEBRATIONS, SOME WITH POLITICAL OVERTONES, PLANNED
FOR JULY 21 BIRTHDAY OF 12TH IMMAM. MULLAH RETURNS PEACEFULLY TO
ISFAHAN FROM INTERNAL EXILE. ANOTHER RESURGENCE
PARTY DEPUTY SECRETARY RESIGNS GOI SOURCE CONFIRMS INDEPENDENT
CANDIDATES WILL BE ABLE TO RUN IN 1979 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.
ARYAMEHR UNIVERSITY TEHRAN CAMPUS TO REMAIN OPEN, TERMS NOT
YET SET. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM SEVERAL SOURCES EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT JULY 21
ANNIVERSARY OF 12TH IMMAM'S BIRTHDAY WILL BE HOLIDAY WITH
POLITICAL CROSS CURRENTS. AYATOLLAH SHARIATMADARI AND HIS
FOLLOWERS ARE ARRANGING NORMAL LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS ON THIS
VERY IMPORTANT SHIA EVENT. AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI'S
FOLLOWERS AND LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF IRAN LEADER BAZARGAN
AND OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE CALLED FOR A QUIET,
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 06890 201350Z

SOMBER POLITICAL MEETING IN TEHRAN FOR THE EVENING OF
JULY 20 IN LIEU OF NORMAL JOYFUL DEMONSTRATIONS.
DISSIDENTS EXPECT NO TROUBLE, EXCEPT PERHAPS OVERCROWDING
BUT BELIEVE THERE WILL BE A POLICE PRESENCE. TWO
RELIGIOUS FACTIONS APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO MINIMIZE THIS
FIRST OPEN DIFFERENCE OVER THEIR APPROACHES TO OPPOSING
GOI, SO EXTERNAL VIOLENCE NOT EXPECTED TO REFLECT

INTERNAL STRUGGLE (COMMENT: BUT ALWAYS POSSIBLE).

2. RELIGIOUS GROUPS HAVE NOT MADE MAJOR ISSUE OF CELEBRATIONS IN SHIRAZ AND TABRIZ, THOUGH CELEBRATIONS EXPECTED. IN ISFAHAN EVENING JUNE 19, MULLAH TAHERI RETURNED FROM TWO MONTHS EXILE TO HAMMADAN. RELIABLE EYE-WITNESS REPORTS INDICATE HE WAS MET BY LARGE BUT UNCOUNTED CROWD AT EDGE OF CITY SHOUTING SLOGANS. ROUTE TOOK THEM PAST U.S. CONSULATE, BUT THERE WAS NO ANTI AMERICAN MANIFESTATION. ASIDE FROM WINDOWS BROKEN IN JOLFA MOVIE HOUSE, THERE WERE NO INJURIES OR MAJOR DAMAGE.

3. RPPI FERMENT--ON JULY 18 RPPI DEPUTY SECRETARY TABRIZ SENATOR MOHAMMAD MOUSAVI RESIGNED TO GIVE SECRETARY GENERAL (AND PRIME MINISTER) AMOUZEGAR A FREE HAND AT REORGANIZING RPPI. HE FOLLOWS FELLOW DEPUTY SEC GEN AMELI TEHRANI TO THE SIDELINES (REFA). THIRD SENIOR DEPUTY, MAHMOUD JAFFARIAN IS REPORTEDLY ON VERGE OF DEPARTURE AS WELL. SOME QUARTERS BELIEVE ALL 13 ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AT CENTRAL PARTY HEADQUARTERS WILL GO AS WELL. NUMBER OF INTERNAL PARTY MEETINGS HAS INCREASED, INCLUDING JULY 19 MEETING OF THREE WING LEADERS WITH PRIME MINISTER. SHAKEUP OF PARTY ORGANIZATION CLEARLY IN PROGRESS.

4. OPEN ELECTIONS--PRESS JULY 19 CARRIED STATEMENT BY AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE (REPORTEDLY EITHER MININFO HOMAYOUN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 06890 201350Z

OR OTHER SENIOR MININFO FIGURE) THAT INDEPENDENT AND DISSIDENT CANDIDATES COULD RUN IN 1979 NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THIS IS FIRST "SEMI-OFFICIAL" INDICATION TO PUBLIC OF DECISION WHICH EMB BELIEVES HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE(REFB).

5. ARYAMEHR UNIVERSITY--NATIONAL IRANIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION REPORTED STATEMENT JULY 17 BY ARYAMEHR UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR ALI-REZA MEHRAN THAT TEHRAN CAMPUS WOULD NOT BE CLOSED. DIFFERENCES STILL REMAIN BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER, WHO WANTS ARYAMEHR TO CONCENTRATE ON GRADUATE STUDIES, AND UNIVERSITY FACULTY WHO WANT CAMPUS TO REMAIN AS IT IS, BUT A CAMPUS WILL STAY IN TEHRAN WHILE ISFAHAN BRANCH WILL STILL GO FORWARD AS PLANNED. NAAS

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